NOMINATION OF ARTHUR V. WATKINS

UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

AUG 2 6 1959

MAIN
READING ROOM

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF ARTHUR V. WATKINS
TO BE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

AUGUST 11, 1959

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NOMINATION OF ARTHUR V. WATKINS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1959

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:15 a.m., in room 3112, New Senate Office Building, Hon. James E. Murray (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Murray, Anderson, Bible, Gruening, Moss, Dworshak, Kuchel, Goldwater, and Allott.

Also present: Richard L. Callaghan, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; and James H. Gamble, professional staff member.

The CHAIRMAN. The meeting will come to order, please.

The first matter on the agenda this morning is the confirmation of Arthur V. Watkins of Utah to be an Associate Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission.

We have here a biographical sketch of Mr. Watkins, and I will ask that it be inserted in the record at this point.

(The document referred to follows:)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, ARTHUR V. WATKINS

Arthur V. Watkins of Orem, Utah, was nominated on August 3 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to be a member of the Indian Claims Commission. Mr. Watkins is the grandson of John Watkins, handcart pioneer who came to Utah in 1856, and the son of Arthur Watkins, who pioneered in settlement of Uintah Basin country in northeastern Utah adjacent to Ute Indian Reservation. He was born at Midway, Utah, December 18, 1886.

Mr. Watkins attended Brigham Young University, 1903–06; New York University, 1909–10; and Columbia University Law School from which he obtained a LL.B. degree in 1912; he also received an honorary doctor of laws degree on June 8, 1959, from the University of Utah.

Admitted to the practice of law in Utah in 1912, Mr. Watkins opened a law office in Salt Lake City in 1913. He was chosen assistant county attorney of Salt Lake County in 1914. Subsequently, he established a law practice in Provo, Utah, and in 1928 was elected judge of the Fourth Judicial District of Utah.

He served as chairman of the committee to organize central Utah water users and helped to organize the association which served as sponsoring agent for the Provo River reclamation project. He is the former general counsel for the Provo River Water Users' Association. Mr. Watkins was also the part-time editor-publisher of various Utah newspapers.

He was elected U.S. Senator on November 5, 1946, and reelected November 4, 1952. While in the Senate, Mr. Watkins was a member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee for 12 years and served on the following subcommittees:

Indian Subcommittee, 12 years; chairman 4 years.
Irrigation and Reclamation Subcommittee, 12 years.
Territorial Subcommittee, Mines and Mining Committee, short periods.
Joint Committee on Navajo-Hopi Indian Administration.

He also served as a member of the Judiciary Committee for 8 years, during which time he was a member of the Internal Security Subcommittee, and the Immigration Subcommittee, of which he was chairman for 2 years.

During his service in the Senate he was a member of the Public Works Committee for 4 years and a member of the Joint Economic Committee for 12 years.

At present Mr. Watkins is consultant to the Secretary of the Interior.

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JAMES E. MURRAY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

The CHAIRMAN. I am sure that all members of the committee share my pleasure in having before us this morning for our consideration the President's nomination of Arthur V. Watkins to be an Associate Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission.

Those of us who served with Arthur Watkins are fully appreciative of his skill in the law. Our service with him on this committee is sufficient testimony to his objectivity and the judicious manner in which he approaches all matters of concern to our Nation. I need not remind my colleagues here of the time, thought, and attention that this nominee, while a Member of the Senate, devoted to our Indian citizens and their problems. In dealing with legislative solutions to Indian problems, Arthur Watkins was able to draw on a very considerable knowledge of Indian history and law. In my judgment, that knowledge qualifies him above all others to serve in this position for which he has been nominated.

Senator Bennett of Utah has expressed a desire to speak in behalf of this nomination.

Senator, you may proceed in any manner you wish.

STATEMENT OF HON. WALLACE F. BENNETT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF UTAH

Senator BENNETT. Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to appear before this group and associate myself with the statement the chairman has already made, because during the 8 years that I served as his junior colleague representing the State of Utah, he was also a member of this committee, and I am sure the men who served with him during that period came to know him, to appreciate his ability, to appreciate the high character and standard of conduct he brings to every job he undertakes.

This is a case of carrying coals to Newcastle. I am sure there is no recommendation that I could give him which would add to the respect and appreciation the members of the committee already have for him. But it is an honor for me to appear to carry out the formal tradition in such a situation and express to the committee my appreciation for this fine man and my feeling that he will do an excellent job in the assignment to which the President has appointed him and to which I know this committee will add its confirmation.

The CHAIRMAN. I am sure all members of the committee concur in what you have stated.

Are there any other remarks?

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK E. MOSS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF UTAH

Senator MOSS. Mr. Chairman, may I add my voice to that of my senior colleague, Senator Bennett, in stating that Arthur Watkins is a known and respected citizen of our State. He served us well as Senator for 12 years, and served on this committee.

Like my colleague, Senator Bennett, I will not attempt to detail his service, because so many members of this committee worked with him over a long period of time, and they know of his contribution to this committee and to the Senate of the United States.

I heartily endorse the words of Senator Bennett, and I commend the nomination of Senator Watkins to the committee, and I shall vote for his confirmation.

Senator GOLDWATER. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Senator from Arizona.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARRY GOLDWATER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA

Senator GOLDWATER. Mr. Chairman, it was my pleasure to serve on the Indian Affairs Subcommittee 6 years with Senator Watkins. Two of those years, he was chairman of the subcommittee. I came to the Congress with a deep interest in Indian matters, and I found very quickly that Senator Watkins shared this interest. In fact, his interest far preceded his service in the Senate.

The Indians of my State have indicated a desire to have Senator Watkins appointed to this position. I might say that Arizona has more Indians than any other State, and they are very keenly aware of the sensitivity of their position to the bench to which he is being appointed. I not only have a deep professional regard for him, but, what is more important for me, a keen personal regard. I had known Senator Watkins for many years before I came to the Senate, and in appearing before this committee for many years. I have known him as a citizen of the adjoining State of Utah. I have nothing but the highest respect for him.

And I am glad to have the opportunity to vote to confirm his nomination.

STATEMENT OF HON. GORDON ALLOTT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my recommendation of Mr. Watkins.

I would like to say this, as a lawyer: That I have, during my first term in the Senate, encountered no person who devoted as much time and was as skilled in the legal analysis of various legislation which came before the U.S. Senate and who contributed in a more positive and constructive way to the proper formulation of legislation, particularly from the legal angle, than the former Senator from Utah.

I am sure that all Members of the Senate do recognize this ability, coupled with his great background in the field of law, and couple that with what I am sure everyone recognizes as a character of the

greatest integrity. I think we have in him a person whom we may approve with a great feeling that the Indian Claims Commission will have acquired one of the finest legal minds and one of the finest men in the United States.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HON. CLINTON P. ANDERSON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Chairman, I recognize that we could spend the entire morning with tributes to Arthur Watkins, and that we would all appreciate doing it. I say that, for myself, I think that the greatest quality he has that appeals to me is his quality of absolute integrity. I think on this Indian Claims Commission it is extremely important that the man who goes there not only knows the law, but that he is a man of complete honesty, who will protect the interests of the United States as well as the interests of the Indians. I have had so many dealings with Senator Watkins on so many different subjects that I know he will administer this responsibility in a very fine fashion, and that both sides to litigation will have on the bench, so to speak, when the matter is being tested, a man whose integrity will count in the final determination of each case.

I am happy indeed that I will have a chance to vote for his approval by this committee and for his confirmation by the Senate of the United States. He is a type of public servant that can be very profitably utilized, particularly in these areas where a great many of the decisions depend upon the application of commonsense and complete fidelity to the Government of the United States.

STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN BIBLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator BIBLE. Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to associate myself with the remarks that have been made. It indeed is a high privilege for me to be able to vote for Senator Wakins.

I have served with him on this committee for a period of 4 years. Our close association as Senators from neighboring States has brought us in contact with many joint problems, and I think Senator Anderson has keynoted my high respect for him by pointing out his integrity, and in addition to that his fairness and keen sense of justice.

I know that he will serve on this Commission with high distinction.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS H. KUCHEL, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator KUCHEL. Mr. Chairman, I desire to associate myself strongly with the tributes that have been voiced here this morning in support of the nomination of our distinguished former colleague on this committee, Senator Arthur Watkins. I had the honor of serving with Senator Watkins in the Senate and on this committee for 6 years.

Based on my own personal experience, I have the most profound respect for his great ability, his judgment, his judicial fairness and

objectivity, and, above all, his truly outstanding integrity. He is a keen student of Indian history, and their present status, both political and economic.

In short, Senator Watkins brings to the Commission great gifts of knowledge, training, temperament, and character. I congratulate President Eisenhower on his nomination, and am happy indeed to have the privilege of supporting that nomination in this committee and in the Senate.

STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY DWORSHAK, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Senator DWORSHAK. Mr. Chairman, I want to heartily concur in all of the commendation of Senator Watkins. Anyone who served with him on this committee is fully aware of his capabilities, the conscientious application which he gives to any assignments, and I am sure that it is most fortunate that the Indian Claims Commission will have a member who understands the problems of the Indians of our country and who is fairminded and possesses the integrity that he will bring, a sense of high dedication to service on this Commission.

And therefore I deem it a real pleasure to move that the nomination of Arthur Watkins to serve as Associate Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission be confirmed.

Senator ANDERSON. I will second that.

The CHAIRMAN. Before we act on that matter, Senator O'Mahoney has asked me to announce that were he able to be present today it would be his distinct pleasure to support the nomination of his longtime friend, Arthur Watkins.

Also, Senator Gruening, of Alaska, has asked that I announce his wholehearted support of Mr. Watkins' nomination to be Associate Commissioner of the Indian Claims Commission.

There will be enclosed in the record a letter the committee has received from Mr. John Jex, former administrative assistant of Senator Watkins.

Submitted also for the record is a communication received from Senator Neuberger, stating his support for the pending nomination.

(The documents referred to are as follows:)

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
August 10, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I will be delayed in attending the committee meeting on Tuesday morning because of a conflicting schedule for the Senate Public Works Committee, which has at the top of its agenda for action two of the public buildings bills recently reported out by the subcommittee of which I am chairman. I feel that it is necessary that I be present at the Senate Public Works executive session during deliberations on these measures.

Although I may be late in attending the hearings on the nomination of Hon. Arthur V. Watkins as a member of the Indian Claims Commission, I want you to know of my support for early approval of his nomination. While Senator Watkins was serving with me on the Interior Committee we had an opportunity to work together on many Indian problems, and I was always impressed by his knowledge of Indian affairs and by his desire to cooperate in obtaining fair and equitable solutions. I hope that my work with the Senate Public Works Commit-

tee can be completed in sufficient time so that I can be present to cast my vote for a favorable report on Senator Watkins' nomination.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. NEUBERGER.

NATIONAL COAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., August 4, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: I have just noted the announcement by President Eisenhower of the nomination of ex-Senator Arthur V. Watkins to be a member of the Indian Claims Commission.

Anticipating that this nomination will be before your committee in the near future, I wish to express for the use and benefit of the members of the committee my personal and wholehearted endorsement of the Senator for the position to which he has been nominated. During the 6 years which I had the pleasure of serving as a member of his personal staff I became a lifelong and devoted admirer.

I know of his deep and sincere desires to help the Indian peoples, and from his service with many of you on the committee I know you share that knowledge. His integrity, devotion, and personal vigor are also characteristics which those of you who have served with him know as fully as do those of us who served as members of his staff. Therefore, further attestation to these qualities is, I am sure, unnecessary.

I do wish, however, to join the great host of his friends, admirers, and supporters in calling upon the committee for early favorable action.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. JEX.

Senator Anderson?

Senator ANDERSON. I will second the motion of the Senator from Idaho that the nomination be reported to the Senate.

The CHAIRMAN. All in favor?

(General response: "Aye.")

The CHAIRMAN. Opposed?

(No response.)

The CHAIRMAN. The "ayes" have it.

Senator ANDERSON. I do think we ought to give Senator Watkins a chance to say a few words in his own behalf.

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR V. WATKINS, NOMINEE TO INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Chairman, I thought after all those statements I should have a chance to say I appreciate that very much, but do not build me up too much. Many times you can stumble.

The CHAIRMAN. We were not trying to foreclose you from making any statements.

Mr. WATKINS. I learned a long time ago there are times not to say anything. I have lost lawsuits that way.

I would be less than human if I did not say I am deeply moved by what has been said and done here this morning. As you know, I have at times been somewhat vigorous in urging my views, and though we have sometimes disagreed, I know it has always been with a good spirit. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life to have served with this fine body of men on this committee. I think for the most part we were practically unanimous in our views on the needs

of the great West and the development of the West. We had common problems, and we tried to solve them unitedly, because we realized there were not many of us and if we did not get together we would not be able to get many of the things we needed.

With respect to the Indians, one of my life interests has been the subject of the American Indians. I have a great faith in their ultimate destiny. I have seen them develop in the last 12 years beyond what I had expected would happen in that short period of time.

I am especially grateful to my two Senators from Utah, Senator Bennett and Senator Moss, for the very fine statements they made here this morning.

I thank you all.

The CHAIRMAN. The Senate committee will now go into executive session to consider bills before the committee.

(Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m., the committee proceeded in executive session.)

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